



Fw: SLO County Renewable Energy Program
James Caruso to: Annette Ramirez

03/06/2015 08:50 AM

Annette:

This letter addresses item 26 on Tuesday's agenda.

James Caruso
San Luis Obispo County
Department of Planning and Building
Senior Planner
(805) 781-5702
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----- Forwarded by James Caruso/Planning/COSLO on 03/06/2015 08:48 AM -----

From: "Shoals, John" <JTSU@pge.com>
To: "jcaruso@co.slo.ca.us" <jcaruso@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: "Linkugel, Eric P" <EPL3@pge.com>
Date: 03/03/2015 10:19 AM
Subject: RE: SLO County Renewable Energy Program

Good Morning James,

Attached for your use and information is a letter from Pacific Gas and Electric Company supporting the County's proposed Renewable Energy Streamlining Program (RESP). You will receive a hard copy via U.S. mail this week.

Due to scheduling conflicts, I was not able to attend the recent Stakeholder Roundtables on February 28. Eric Linkugel and I are available if you have questions or need additional information.

Regards,

John

John P. Shoals
Senior Government Relations Rep
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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To learn more, please visit <http://www.pge.com/about/company/privacy/customer/>

Agenda Item No: 26 • Meeting Date: March 10, 2015
Presented By: John Shoals
Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: January 09, 2015



PG&E Comment Letter on SLO County RESP.pdf



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company®**

John Shoals
Government Relations

February 27, 2015

Mr. James Caruso
County of San Luis Obispo
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA

RE: County of San Luis Obispo Renewable Energy Streamlining Program

Dear James,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed County of San Luis Obispo (County) Renewable Energy Streamlining Program (RESP) and associated draft environmental impact report (DEIR).

PG&E generally supports that RESP for the following reasons:

- The RESP will encourage the development of renewable energy sources in suitable locations by providing a level of certainty in the permitting process for companies and individuals.
- The RESP protects valuable agricultural lands and calls for the siting of these energy sources on disturbed properties that have been used for other activities. PG&E is a supporter of preserving and protecting prime agriculture land and natural resources.
- The program may help our new Aggregation component of NEM that allows farmers and other customers who own multiple properties to generate on one piece of property and credit towards other facilities located on other contiguous or adjacent properties that they own and have electric service under their name.
- The program may also help projects that might be eligible to bid into our newly approved Community Solar program, where PG&E will allow customers to support the development of new solar projects sized 0.5-20 MWs, located within PG&E's service area by paying a premium on their bills.
- PG&E is committed to being a partner in the county and state's clean energy future. The company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to our customers. More than 50% of PG&E's energy portfolio is from sources that are renewable and/or have no greenhouse gas emissions, while 27% fits within the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements.

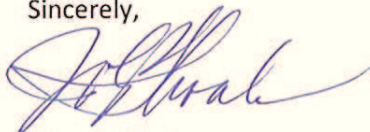
PG&E also requests that the County take the following issues into consideration before adopting the RESP.

- The company supports the concept that a small renewable energy project qualifies for permit streamlining if no new transmission lines and supporting structures are needed. While there are varying factors in each case, a 10MW generation project may require a dedicated distribution circuit and a 15MW generation project would likely require a new transmission line for service. If the goal is to avoid construction of new infrastructure and environmental impacts, the County may want to consider setting the threshold at 10MW rather than 20MW.
- As previously noted, the RESP will help facilitate the development of energy generation sources in the County. The company is committed to partnering with third parties provided they participate in PG&E's competitive bidding processes, which allows us to continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our customers. Projects qualifying for permit streamlining must be competitively priced with all other projects in PG&E's service territory in order for the company to purchase the energy for distribution.
- The draft RESP shows several customer owned substations throughout the County. Please be aware that PG&E does not have the right to tie into customer owned substations, which will make it difficult, if not impossible, for the company to partner and distribute electricity from these facilities into the system.
- The company is supportive of the RESP and will work with the County to successfully implement the program. Please be aware that all projects need to meet Rule 21 "Generation Facility Interconnections" and should contact our Generation Interconnection Hotline at (415) 972-5676 or gen@pge.com. Potential applicants are encouraged to fill out a pre-application with the company to obtain specific information on the site(s) that they may be interested in. They can do this at:
http://www.pge.com/includes/docs/pdfs/shared/newgenerator/retailgenerators/Rule_21_Preaapplication_Report_Request_Form.pdf

We commend the County on its proactive approach to facilitate the development of renewable energy sources in suitable locations in the region. Given the complexity of energy planning, the company looks forward to working with the County on the development energy policies and programs that encourage the development of renewable energy sources that contribute to sustainable clean energy in region and state.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft RESP and DEIR. Please do not hesitate to contact Eric Linkugel or John Shoals if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John P. Shoals
Senior Government Relations Representative
Pacific Gas and Electric Company